

Application. No. 10/826,913
Amendment dated July 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 8, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A substantially planar pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, comprising: a hub having an aperture with a predetermined geometry substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub having a plurality of lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof, said lobes each having distal ends at a predetermined radius from a center of said aperture, and an arcuate recess disposed between each pair of said lobes, said recess having an arc length that subtends an angle no greater than 180 degrees.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, wherein said aperture is sized to loosely surround at least one of the group: an elongated member of a specific pipe or bar clamp, and a pipe coupling of predetermined outside diameter.

Claim 3 (original): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 2, wherein said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a circle, square, rectangle, and polygon.

Claim 4 (original): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 3, wherein said pad support is formed by one of the processes: injection molding, and machining.

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Claim 5 (original): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 4, wherein said pad support comprises a rib molded into at least one of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

Claim 6 (original): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 5, wherein said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

Claims 7 - 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a layer of resilient material affixed to a face of each of said lobes.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 9, wherein said layer of resilient material is inset into said face of each of said lobes.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for securing said pad support to an elongated member of said pipe clamp.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 11, wherein said means for securing said pad support comprises a set screw.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The substantially planar pad support as recited in claim 11, wherein said aperture is sized to loosely surround an elongated member of a specific pipe or bar clamp.

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Claim 14 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 12, wherein said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a circle, square, rectangle, and polygon.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 14, wherein said pad support is formed by one of the processes: injection molding, and machining.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15, wherein said pad support comprises a rib molded into at least one of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15, wherein said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

Claims 18 - 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (new): A substantially planar pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, comprising: a hub having an aperture with a predetermined geometry substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub having a plurality of lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof, an arcuate recess disposed between each pair of said lobes, each of said lobes having a distal end at a predetermined radius from a center of said aperture, each of said arcuate recesses comprising an arc length radiating from a center point located outside of a circle circumscribed through said distal ends of said lobes.

Claim 23 (new): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 22, wherein said aperture is sized to surround at least one of the group: an elongated member of a specific pipe or bar clamp, and a pipe coupling of predetermined outside diameter.

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Claim 24 (new): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 23, wherein said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a circle, square, rectangle, and polygon.

Claim 25 (new): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 22, wherein said pad support is formed by one of the processes: injection molding, and machining.

Claim 26 (new): The pad support for placement on an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 22, wherein said pad support comprises a rib molded into at least one of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.